

2.6 Yukon Training Area, Multi Purpose Training Range Firing Fan

USAG-AK has proposed to construct an Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) and an Infantry Squad Battle Course (ISBC) at the YTA on Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The ranges will be sited just east of Eielson Air Force Base, along Manchu and Quarry Roads.

The ISBC will include a Breach Facility, an Urban Assault Course and a Shoot House. Weapons fired on this course will use small arms ammunition (e.g., 9mm tracer (AT4 subcaliber), 5.56mm (M-16), 7.62mm (M-60 machine gun), 40mm training practice round – orange smoke (M-203)) using non-dudged ammunition. Small explosive charges (up to 5 pounds of C4) will be used at the Breach Facility.

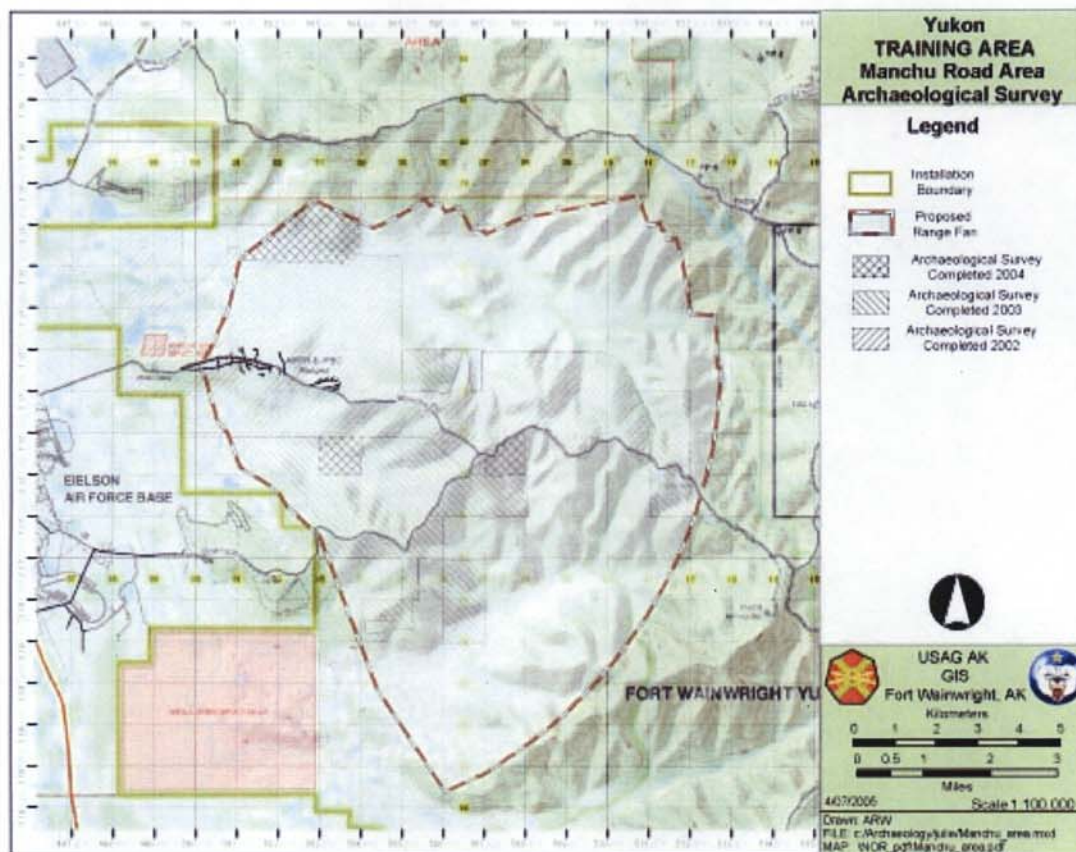


Figure 20. Map of archaeological survey completed in the Yukon Training Area proposed range fan

The IPBC is a larger-scale course designed for more combat realism and larger unit (platoon) training. Weapons fired on this course will be the same as those on the ISBC. Both courses will include an After-Action Review Facility to allow the control, monitoring, and reviewing of simulations and training operations. Supporting facilities for both courses will also include communications, electric service, an ammo breakdown facility, control tower, warm-up facility, crushed aggregate access roads and parking areas, and self-contained dry-flush, Arctic latrines.

The firing fan for the proposed ranges has been partially inventoried for historic properties during the 2002 and 2003 field seasons. This inventory work continued in 2004 when approximately 963 additional acres were surveyed.

Survey and Field Methods

In July and August 2004, an archaeological survey crew, comprised of three to four archaeologists employed by CEMML, conducted a pedestrian survey of a portion of the proposed range fan (Figure 20).

Parallel pedestrian transects spaced at 20m were walked in all areas that were not deemed too wet or too steep ($>40^\circ$) to contain cultural material. Systematic subsurface testing was undertaken in areas determined to be high probability (e.g., lake margins, ridges, benches adjacent to steeper slopes) during initial review of the proposed project area, and as determined by the supervising archaeologist and field crew leader based on survey findings. Shovel tests were approximately 40cm x 40cm, and soils were screened through ¼in. hardware cloth. No cultural materials were identified or recovered during the field inventory.

Cultural Resources

Two known sites are located within the boundaries of the proposed project area. These sites are XBD-00095 and XBD-00104.

XBD-00095

Latitude:

Longitude:

Determination: Not evaluated

This site consists of two grey chert flakes, one of which is a biface thinning flake, found on the surface of a road cut (Holmes 1979). The UTM coordinates for the site are:

Recommendations

A CEMML archaeology crew attempted to relocate this site in the summer of 2003. No remains of the site were relocated and it was likely destroyed due to additional disturbance in the area. This site has likely been destroyed and is therefore not eligible for the National Register. No further action is recommended.

XBD-00104

Latitude:

Longitude:

Determination: Not eligible

This site consists of two grey chert flakes, one of which is probably a biface thinning flake, found on the surface of a material source (Holmes 1979). The UTM coordinates for the site are: . This site was previously found to be not eligible for the National Register on July 25, 1984.

Recommendations

A CEMML archaeology crew attempted to relocate this site in the summer of 2003. No remains of the site were relocated and it was likely destroyed due to additional disturbance in the area. This site was previously determined not eligible for the National

Register on July 25, 1984. This site has likely been destroyed and is therefore not eligible for the National Register. No further action is recommended.

Results

Additional testing and survey on approximately 963 acres within the proposed range firing fan in the YTA did not identify any cultural resources. Additional survey and testing is proposed for the upcoming field seasons.

2.7 Birch Hill Section 110 Inventory

In order to assist USAG-AK in meeting its National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 110 responsibilities, CEMML completed some inventory activities in the Birch Hill area of the Fort Wainwright cantonment (Figure 21). Approximately 180 acres on Birch Hill were inventoried in 2004. While numerous military training features, such as individual fighting positions (foxholes), were encountered during survey activities, no National Register eligible cultural resources were located.

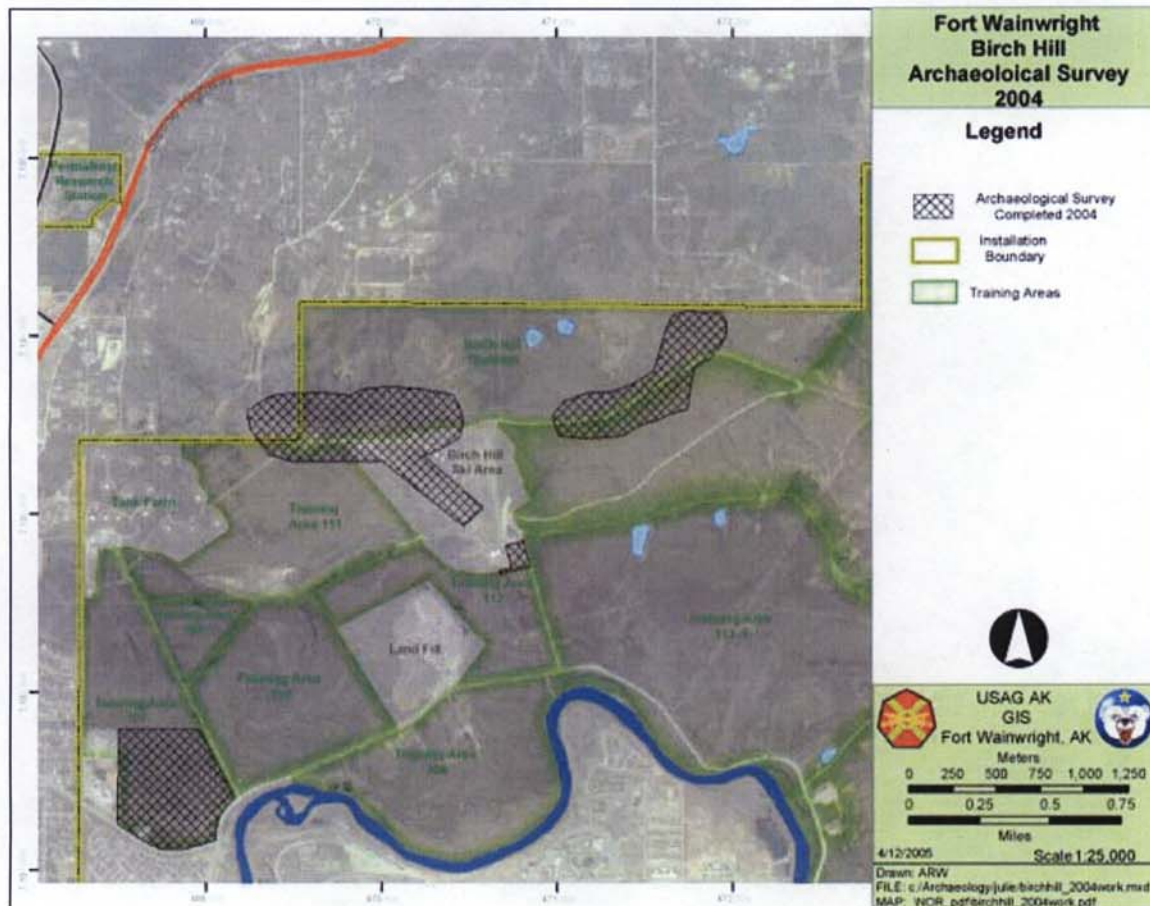


Figure 21. Archaeological survey completed on Birch Hill and in the vicinity

Section 110 cultural resources inventories will continue to be carried out on USAG-AK lands as funding and other constraints allow.